

Message Text

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51

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 DOTE-00 EB-07 AGR-10

SWF-01 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 IO-10 OES-05

COA-01 INT-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IGA-01 /126 W

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R 161515Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4797

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL DOUALA BY POUCH

UNCLAS YAOUNDE 4094

FOR STATE (AF/C) AND AID (AA/AFR)

E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELTN, EPAP, CM

SUBJ: INAUGURATION OF TRANSCAMEROON RAILROAD AND OPENING OF
NGAOUNDERE AGRICULTURAL FAIR

REF: YAOUNDE 4078

1. SUMMARY: DECEMBER 10 INAUGURATION OF TRANSCAMEROON RAILROAD AND NGAOUNDERE-GAROUA ROAD AND OPENING OF NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL FAIR IN NORTHERN TOWN OF NGAOUNDERE WERE PRESIDED OVER BY PRESIDENT AHIDJO WITH SPEECHMAKING AMIDST COLORFUL CEREMONIAL TRAPPINGS. PRESIDENTS OF GABON, CAR AND QUITORIAL GUINEA ALSO ATTENDED, AS DID REPS OF DONOR COUNTRIES (INCLUDING U.S.) AND ORGANIZATIONS. PRESIDENT GRACEFULLY EXPRESSED THANKS TO TRANSCAM DONORS.

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2. AS SECOND ACT OF GREAT DECEMBER CEREMONIES FOLLOWING DEC 8 UDEAC CELEBRATIONS (REFTEL), DEC 10 SHOW INCLUDED INAUGURATION OF TRANSCAM RR AND NGAOUNDERE-GAROUA ROAD, AND OPENING OF NGAOUNDERE AGRICULTURAL FAIR. ASIDE FROM LOCAL COLOR (TRADITIONAL MUSLIM RULERS' HORSEMEN, FOLK DANCERS, ETC). MAIN EVENTS WERE TWO SPEECHES BY PRESIDENT AHIDJO.

3. INAUGURATING RAILROAD AND ROAD, AHIDJO STRESSED THAT THEY WERE MAJOR COMPONENT PART OF CAMEROON'S DEVELOPING DORSAL ROAD/RAIL LINK BETWEEN SOUTH AND NORTH, REACHING TO KOUSSERI AT CHAD BORDER. DESCRIBED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS LINK, ESPECIALLY TRANSCAM, IN TERMS OF CONTRIBUTION TO COUNTRY'S THREE FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVES: NATIONAL UNITY, DEVELOPMENT, INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION. THEREBY CITED IMPORTANCE OF FACILITATING CONTACTS BETWEEN CAMEROONIANS IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF COUNTRY AS FACTOR IN PROMOTING NATIONAL SENTIMENT AND SHARED VALUES. STRESSED UNITY OF RAILROAD IN PROMOTING COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC INTEGRATION OF DIFFERENT REGIONS, AS WELL AS FOSTERING AGRICULTURAL, MINERAL AND INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY IN NORTH (AND THUS HELPING PROMOTE POLICY OF REGIONALLY BALANCED DEVELOPMENT OF ENTIRE NATION. CITED ALSO USE OF NEW OVERLAND TRANSPORT FACILITIES TO STIMULATE FOREIGN TRADE AND TO HELP SERVE NEEDS OF NEIGHBORING CHAD AND CAR.

4. AHIDJO CLOSED WITH GRACEFUL EXPRESSION OF THANKS TO DONOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS, NAMING EEC, US, FRANCE AND GERMANY FOR RAILROAD AND IBRD AND IDA FOR ROAD.

5. AHIDJO'S LENGTHY SPEECH OPENING AGRICULTURAL FAIR DETAILED GURC'S GOALS AND EFFORTS IN AGRICULTURAL DOMAIN. NAMED PRIMARY GOAL--ASSURING ADEQUATE FOOD FOR POPULATION; SECONDARY GOAL--PRODUCING CASH CROPS FOR PROCESSING AND EXPORT. DESCRIBED EFFORTS TO DEVELOP FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, FORESTRY. CLOSED WITH CALL FOR "RADICAL" CHANGE IN ATTITUDES TO MAKE AGRICULTURE BASE OF CIVILIZATION; FOR EVERY CAMEROONIAN, WHETHER IN PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SECTOR, TO DIRECT HIS LIFE TOWARD RURAL WORK AND PLACE FARMING AT CENTER OF HIS CONCERN.

6. AHIDJO HAD WITH HIM AT NGAOUNDERE CEREMONIES PRESIDENTS BOKASSA OF CAR, BONGO OF GABON, AND MACIAS OF EQUATORIAL
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GUINEA. ALSO PRESENT WERE DELS REPRESENTING PRINCIPAL TRANSCAM DONOR ORGANIZATIONS: EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND DIRECTOR GENERAL JACQUES FERRANDI, FRENCH MINISTER OF COOPERATION PIERRE ABELIN, WEST GERMAN DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY OF COOPERATION WINFRIED BOELL, AND FORMER AID ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR AFRICA EDMOND HUTCHINSON. FORMER AMERICAN AND FRENCH AMBASSADORS TO CAMEROON ALSO ATTENDED AS GUEST OF PRESIDENT.

7. COMMENT: AHIDJO'S ROAD/RAIL INAUGURATION SPEECH DEFTLY DESCRIBED THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS, ESPECIALLY THE RAILROAD, TO CAMEROON'S OFT-STATED THREEFOLD GOALS OF UNITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE. SPEECH AT AGRICULTURAL FAIR WAS MORE ROUTINE STATUS REPORT, BUT A USEFUL SUMMARY. EMBASSY POUCHING BOTH TEXTS TO DEPT (AF/C). LOCAL MEDIA GAVE GOOD COVERAGE OF DONORS' CONTRIBUTIONS TO RAILROAD AND TO PRESENCE DELEGATIONS FROM DONOR STATES.
MOORE

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